

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HABITAT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL**

Game Branch / HPC Project Number: 15-407

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: 20C-44B Adaptive Mountain Lion Predation Management

Region and Game Management Unit: Region 4, GMU 20C, 42, 44A, 44B

Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):

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Was the project presented to the LHPC?

YES[] NO[]

Has this project been submitted in previous years? YES[x] NO[]

If Yes, was it funded? YES[x] NO[] → **Funded HPC Project #(s):** 14-408

Project Type: Wildlife Management

Brief Project Summary: Purpose is to support the management of bighorn sheep populations as well as learn critical information regarding desert mountain lion populations, movement, and prey use patterns. This project has supported the Adaptive Mountain Lion Management Plan approved by the Arizona Game and Fish Department in 2012. The project uses foot-snares and hounds to capture mountain lions and deploy satellite/GPS collars. These collars enable AGFD personnel to detect and visit kill sites made by individual lions and determine prey use patterns. Minimizing predation of bighorn sheep is a critical part of management activities for desert bighorn sheep in Region 4.

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit: mountain lion

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date: November 2015

Project End Date: November 2016

Environmental Compliance:

NEPA Completed: Yes[] No[] N/A[x]

Projected Completion Date: _____

State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance:

Yes[] No[] N/A[x]

Projected Completion Date: _____

Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: N/A[x]

To be Completed by: _____

Projected Completion Date: _____

PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested: \$ 10,000

Cost Share or Matching Funds: \$

Total Project Costs: \$ 10,000

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print):

Brian Jansen

Address:

9140 E 28th St, Yuma, AZ 85365

E-mail:

bighorns101@yahoo.com

Telephone: 928-925-8189

Date: 8/15/2015

AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel):

Project has been coordinated with: John Hervert, Wildlife Program Manager, Region IV

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

Desert bighorn sheep populations are small, isolated, and vulnerable to predation by mountain lions. Mountain lions are widespread and far-ranging animals that opportunistically prey upon any species that they can capture. Research has generally shown that in many areas, mountain lions are opportunistic predators and take animals species according to their availability on the landscape. That means that if prey abundance is dominated by mule deer, collared peccary, cattle, and burros, then the prey use pattern for individual mountains lions will be similar. However, there have been documented cases of individual mountain lions preying specifically on a less abundant, yet more vulnerable animal species, such as bighorn sheep. These individual lions are especially detrimental to small isolated populations of bighorn sheep. The need has been identified by Region 4 staff that minimizing predation on bighorn sheep is a management tool that should be utilized to support the management of desert bighorn sheep populations.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- Purchase 3 additional satellite/GPS collars, as well as airtime charges
- Continue to detect, capture, and collar more individual mountain lions
- Replace aging collars on 3 existing collared lions
- Identify predation patterns of collared mountain lions
- Implement the adaptive mountain lion management plan in regards to mountain lions that have been documented to prey upon desert bighorn sheep in the project area.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

The project consists of the Region 4, bighorn sheep recovery and mountain lion specialist detecting and capturing new individual mountain lions and maintaining operating satellite collars on existing animals. Both the Specialist and the Wildlife Managers of Region 4, North Sector will track all collared lions and visit identified kills of individual mountain lions. Any mountain lion documented to prey upon bighorn sheep in Region 4 will be lethally removed according to the approved department management plan. Because this project is supporting bighorn sheep recovery and management, mountain lion capture activities will occur only within bighorn sheep ranges, to ensure that effort and funds are focused on the goal.

PROJECT LOCATION:

Region 4 (Yuma), North Sector, 20C, 42, 44A, 44B; with emphasis on areas where bighorn sheep exist.

LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):

(if the project area is private property, please state specifically and provide the landowner's name)

- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

- AZ State Lands Department
IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A COOPERATIVE BIG GAME STEWARDSHIP or LANDOWNER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?
YES[] NO[] N/A[]

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

Sonoran Desert

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

3 satellite/GPS collars @ \$2,000 ea. = \$6,000

Airtime for satellite transmissions ~\$2,000

Incidental equipment costs ~\$2,000

Cost Share or Matching Funds (for volunteer labor rates please refer to the worksheet below)

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

WOULD IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROJECT ASSIST IN PROVIDING, MAINTAINING, OR FACILITATING RECREATIONAL ACCESS?

YES[] NO[] N/A[x]

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

Continuous monitoring of collared mountain lions will occur on a daily basis and identified kills visited to determine prey species. GPS tracking data will be stored for future data analysis.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

Project to be maintained by Kofa Bighorn Sheep Recovery Specialist, Brian Jansen

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Kofa Bighorn Sheep Recovery Specialist, Brian Jansen.

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (please use the worksheet below):

TREE CLEARING/REMOVAL PROJECTS (please use the worksheet below):